



# MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

*Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi since 1926*

## Newsletter

Volume I, Issue 5

May 2015

### Holiday Schedule:

- ◆ National Memorial Day / Jefferson Davis' Birthday:
- ◇ Monday, May 25th

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**Source:**  
**National**  
**Association of**  
**State**  
**Foresters.**  
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**[article.](#)**



## MFC and U.S. Forest Service Work Together to Battle Cogongrass in Mississippi

By National Association of State Foresters & Jim Hancock

With support from the Forest Health Protection program of the USDA Forest Service, the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is achieving goals outlined in its Forest Action Plan.

The program has enabled Mississippi to expand its efforts to combat its spread of cogongrass, an invasive grass that threatens the survival of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

MFC has conducted five successful cogongrass suppression seasons, serving 1,844 landowners, and treating 27,268 spots of cogongrass; and a large public education campaign with radio PSAs and presentations. The MFC cooperates closely on this project with various state and federal agencies and universities.

Cogongrass is an invasive, non-native grass, which occurs in the southeastern United States. A pest in 73 countries and considered to be one of the "Top 10 Worst Weeds in the World", cogongrass affects forest productivity, native species survival, wildlife habitat, recreation, native plants, fire behavior, site management costs to name a few. Cogongrass has be-

come a serious problem for landowners and managers in Mississippi. Cogongrass has proven a tough antagonist for forest managers and in many cases multiple yearly herbicide applications are necessary for total control.

Most forest landowners are aware of the threats from cogongrass but often lack the financial resources to combat the plant. In 2009, Mississippi instituted a Cogongrass Suppression Program made possible by USDA Forest Service American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. The original ARRA program covered 19 of the 62 known infested Mississippi counties along the leading edge of the state's Cogongrass infestation and ended in 2011.

In 2012, the fight was continued in those counties with FY2011 USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forest Health funds in the form of follow-up treatments where necessary. In 2013, FY 2012 USDA Forest Service Redesign Grant funds were used to open the suppression program to two new counties in 2013 thereby increasing the advancing front battle to 22 of 62 counties.

"The Mississippi Forestry Commission appreciates our partnership with the USDA Forest Service. Our relationship is one that is truly working to help the citizens of our state by providing increased forest protection and improving forest health," said Charlie Morgan, State Forester.

In 2014, using FY2013 Redesign Grant funds, the two new counties opened in 2013 were re-treated and new applications were added and also treated. As the program moves south into the native range of Longleaf Pine it becomes even more relevant. The range-wide goal of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative may be severely impaired if cogongrass is not effectively managed by partnerships such as the Mississippi Cogongrass Suppression Program.

2010 to 2014 by the numbers: Six full-time employees; 27 public education presentations; 12 print and 12 radio PSAs aired; seven newspaper interviews published; three radio interviews; four television interviews; 21,000 copies of educational materials shared with landowners in the state.





Photo by Bill Kitchings

*"It is an exciting, fun way for high school students to learn about the environment and the issues facing this and future generations."*

## Mississippi Envirothon 2015

By MFC / John Henry Anderson, MS Soil & Water Conservation Commission (MSWCC)

The Mississippi Envirothon is part of a national program for high school students designed to educate and challenge young people in the environmental science. It is an exciting, fun way for high school students to learn about the environment and the issues facing this and future generations. Combining in-class curriculum with hands-on field experiences, the Mississippi Envirothon demonstrates the role people have in important environmental issues such as forestry, wildlife management, water quality and soil erosion.

The statewide competition takes place in April each year. The contest is held in the field, with five different subject area stations. Each station is staffed with an environmental resource person who is a specialist in that particular field and tests teams in those areas.

This year the MFC was happy to have Todd Matthews, Urban & Community Forestry Forester, participate as a judge in the Current Event Oral Presentations. Bill Kitchings, Central Region Outreach Forester, handled the role of Station Test Administrator for the Forestry Stop, and Russell Bozeman Director of For-

est Protection and Information, assisted Bill with the Forestry Station Test.

The top five teams in the 2015 competition were:

### 1. Oxford High School

### 2. Indianola Academy, Team A

### 3. DeSoto Central, Team B

### 4. St. Andrews Episcopal School

### 5. Gautier High School

The top FFA team was Millsaps Career and Technical Center.

The station high scores were:

**Soils and Land Use:** East Rankin Academy, Team B

**Wildlife:** DeSoto Central, Team B

**Forestry:** Indianola Academy, Team A

**Current Issue:** Gautier High School

**Aquatic Ecology:** DeSoto Central, Team B

**Oral Presentation:** East Rankin Academy, Team A

For more information on the Mississippi Envirothon please click [here](#).

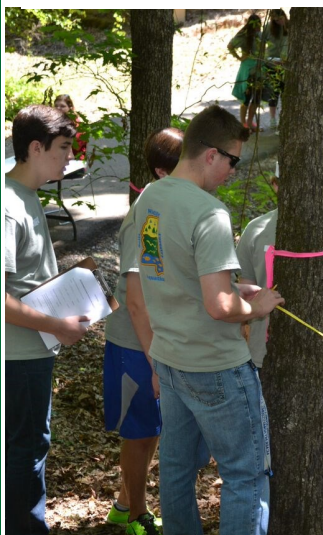


Photo by Bill Kitchings



Photo Courtesy of MSWCC



# Tree Knowledge: Who Am I?

## Who Am I?

April:

Southern Red Oak

Found on p.89 of  
MS Trees Guide

- Click [here](#) for a link to the MS Trees Guide.

### Leaves:

**Type:** pinnately compound, alternate, deciduous  
**Size:** 12.0" - 24.0" long;

leaflets (5-9), usually 7, 5.0" - 9.0"

long, 3.0" - 5.0" wide

**Margin:** finely serrate

**Apex:** acute to long-tapered

**Base:** wedge-shaped or unequally rounded

**Shape:** obovate

**Color:** dark green

**above;** yellow-green

**below**

**Surface:** lustrous above;

velvet pubescence

**below**

**Venation:** pinnate

### Twigs:

**Size:** stout

**Color:** dark brown

**Surface:** pubescent, pale elongated lenticels; leaf scars triangular to half-round

### Buds:

**Size:** 0.75" long

**Shape:** broadly ovoid

**Color:** tan

**Surface:** 3 - 4 dark

brown overlapping, hairy scales

### Fruit and Flowers:

**Nut:** husk; orange-brown, unwinged, dehis-

cent, 0.25" - 0.50" thick;

nut ribbed (4-6); seed,

sweet

**Size:** 1.0" - 2.0" long

**Shape:** globular to ellipsoidal

**Color:** light reddish brown to yellowish brown

**Flower:** monoecious; unisexual; staminate,

3-branched, hairy, yellow

catkins, 5.0" - 8.0"

long; pistillate flower, in 2- to 5-flowered spikes

### Physical Attributes:

**Form:** single stem

**Size:** 100.0', mature

**Growth Rate:** moderate;

35.0' maximum @ 20

yrs

**Life Span:** long (>100 yrs)

### Tolerances:

**Shade:** tolerant

**Drought:** low

**Fire:** medium

**Anaerobic:** medium

**Propagation:** seed (cold stratification required);

bare root; container

**Other:** resprout/coppice potential

### Habitat and Ecology:

**Site:** deep, rich, moist, alluvial soils; on upland slopes and flats in the

northern limit of its range

**Soil Texture:** medium

only

**Soil pH:** 6.4 - 7.4

**Range:** widely distributed but nowhere

Common

### Wildlife Value & Uses:

nuts are

eaten by ducks, quail, wild

turkey, squirrel,

chipmunks, deer, fox, rac-

coon, and whitefooted

mice

### Timber Value and Us-

**es:**

furniture, tool

handles, sporting goods,

veneer, fuelwood,

and charcoal; a few planta-

tions established

for commercial nut pro-

duction

### Landscaping Info:

routinely commercially

available; resistant to snow

and ice damage; suscepti-

ble to frost damage; some-

times crossed with pecan

to produce Hicans; very

good long-lived landscape

tree

### Other facts:

used by Cherokee Indians

as an analgesic, gastroin-

testinal aid, and general

disease remedy (D.E.

Moerman 1986)

**Who Am I?**



Photo by Jayne

Click [here](#) to view the source article.

***“The peak ‘tornado season’ for the Southern Plains is during May into early June.”***



Click [here](#) for more information on the Prescribed Burning Short Course.

## Tornado Safety Basics

By National Weather Service / NOAA

### What is a tornado?

A tornado is a narrow, violently rotating column of air that extends from the base of a thunderstorm to the ground. Because wind is invisible, it is hard to see a tornado unless it forms a condensation funnel made up of water droplets, dust and debris. Tornadoes are the most violent of all atmospheric storms.

### Where do tornadoes occur?

Tornadoes occur in many parts of the world, including Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and South America. Even New Zealand reports about 20 tornadoes each year. Two of the highest concentrations of tornadoes outside the U.S. are Argentina and Bangladesh.

### How many tornadoes occur in the U.S. each year?

About 1,200 tornadoes hit the U.S. yearly. Since official tornado records only date back to 1950, we do not know the actual average number of tornadoes that occur each year. Plus, tornado spotting and reporting methods have changed a lot over the last several decades.

### Where is tornado alley?

Tornado Alley is a nickname invented by the media for a broad area of relatively high tornado occurrence in the central U.S. Various Tornado Alley maps look different because tornado occurrence can be measured many ways: by all tornadoes, tornado county-segments, strong and violent tornadoes only, and databases with different time periods. Please remember, violent or killer tornadoes do happen outside “Tornado Alley” every year.

### When are tornadoes most likely?

Tornado season usually refers to the time of year the U.S. sees the most tornadoes. The peak “tornado season” for the Southern Plains is during May into early June. On the Gulf coast, it is earlier during the spring. In the northern plains and upper Midwest, tornado season is in June or July. But, remember, tornadoes can happen at any time of year. Tornadoes can also happen at any time of day or night, but most tornadoes occur between 4 –9 p.m.

### What is the difference between a Tornado WATCH and a Tornado WARNING?

A Tornado WATCH is issued by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 across the entire U.S. for weather conditions that are favorable for tornadoes. A watch can cover parts of a state or several states. Watch and prepare for severe weather and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio to know when warnings are issued.

A Tornado WARNING is issued by your local NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office meteorologists who watch the weather 24/7 over a designated area. This means a tornado has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar and there is a serious threat to life and property to those in the path of the tornado. Act now to find safe shelter! A warning can cover parts of counties or several counties in the path of danger.

Watch [this Youtube video](#) for a great explanation!

## Prescribed Burning Short Course 2015

**October 6-8th, 2015**

Pearl River Community College

Woodall Technology Center

906 Sullivan Drive

Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Cost: \$250

Space is limited to 30 people, participants will be accepted on a “first come, first served” basis.

**Please contact Jeff Ware** (MFC Safety/ Training Director) for more information.

Phone:  
662-401-8067

Email:  
[jware@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:jware@mfc.state.ms.us)





Photo by Anna Kendall

***“This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies.”***

## Teachers Conservation Workshop

By Anna Kendall

The Teachers Conservation Workshop, or “TCW”, is a practical, hands-on conservation workshop with emphasis on forests and other natural resources. The latest in conservation is presented in the classroom and in numerous field trips including industries, harvesting operations, management practices, and nature trails. Participants learn by demonstration and practical exercises how conservation practices can be integrated into classroom work and student projects. Instructors include professionals from Mississippi State University, Mississippi Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, U.S. Forest Service, forest industries, consulting foresters and many other natural resource organizations and companies. Participants will be certified to use teaching materials of the nationally acclaimed environmental education curriculum, Project Learning Tree.

This is a highly active workshop. Come prepared for field trips, nature walks, and getting in creeks for water studies. In addition to the scheduled activities, participants enjoy networking with

other educators. Scheduled activities start early morning and end at night. Participants must attend all scheduled sessions to receive academic credit or CEU's.

Teachers, school administrators, youth educators, undergraduates, and others may apply. Consideration will be given to teaching duties, subject assignments, the number of times applicant has already attended TCW, as well as the date applications are submitted.

Participants may repeat the workshop every five years.

A registration fee of \$115 is required. This fee includes all meals and lodging (Private rooms are an additional \$100 at the Jones County Junior College workshop), an official TCW shirt, and all course materials. The fee is not refunded for cancellations after June 1st for the South Workshop and June 14th for the North Workshop. Class size is limited. Your registration will be

confirmed by e-mail. The deadline for applying is one week prior to each workshop.

### **Workshops will be held:**

- **June 7—12, 2015**  
Jones County Junior College  
Ellisville, MS



Photo by Anna Kendall

- **June 21—26, 2015**  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Booneville, MS

Click [here](#) for a link to the full brochure and registration form.

For more information please contact Anna Kendall with the Mississippi Forestry Association: 601-354-4936, [akendall@msforestry.net](mailto:akendall@msforestry.net)



*Our greatest  
sympathy to  
John*

*Huddleston and  
his family.*

*Please keep  
Ken Parker's  
son in your  
thoughts and  
prayers for a  
speedy  
recovery.*

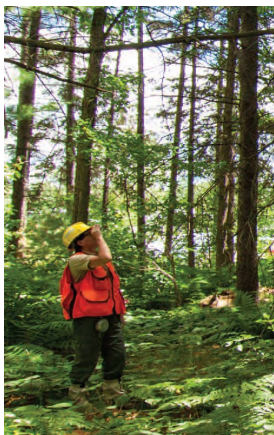


Photo by Leslie Robertson  
courtesy National Association  
of State Foresters

## In Memoriam

Mr. Bobby Jourdan, 64, of Tishomingo, passed away Sunday, April 19th.

Mr. Jourdan worked for the Forestry Commission in Tishomingo County for many years. Then, later worked in Tupelo in Dispatch.

He retired about 8 years ago. -Pamela Pace

Click [here](#) to view the full obituary from Cutshall Funeral Home in Iuka, MS.



## Personnel News

- The Southwest District held a walk-pack test on March 24th at Hansel King Sportplex in Brookhaven. We had 24 participants with 3 of those doing the 45 lb. pack test and all receiving a certificate of completion. We would like to thank KDMC for assisting with this event.

-Judy Deare

## WELCOME!

- Chris Hinton, Forest Ranger I, Jones County - SCD

## Moving On

- Sandra Snell, Director- FEPP - Fire Services, Retiring
- William (Bill) Warner, Radio Tech - Fire Services, Retiring
- James Wood, Forest Ranger IV - ECD, Retiring
- Berbin L. Roland, Forest Ranger IV - ECD, Retiring
- Jennifer Leblanc, Forester I - ECD, Resigned



Photo by Judy Deare





Photo by MFC

***“Registered Foresters attending the field day will be eligible for 2.0 CFE Hours Category II, Loggers will receive 2.0 hours in Category II...”***

- Click [here](#) to view wildfire prevention info.
- Click [here](#) for additional information.

## Firewise Training Opportunity—Lamar County

By Leslie “Opie” Cooper

“How To Have A Fire-wise Home” workshop will be held at the Mill Creek Voting Community Center, 4403 Old Highway 11, Purvis, MS on Thursday, May 21, 2015.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide participants tools to assess fire risks in around their homes and communities. The workshop encourages sound land-use planning, creative mitigation and supportive community infrastructure to reduce the occurrence of fire losses. The workshop will help you understand how to prevent home ignitions through fire-resistant vegetation for landscaping purposes and fire-resistant building designs.

Homeowners, Realtors, Developers, Emergency Managers, Insurance Agents, Volunteer and Paid Fire Fighters, Registered Foresters, Professional Logging Managers, Forest Landowners and Elected Officials are encouraged to attend.

Registered Foresters attending the field day will be eligible for 2.0 CFE Hours Category II, Loggers will receive 2.0 hours in Category II and Realtors will receive 3.0 hrs of elective Real Estate Course (10181). Professional credits are not available for teachers and professional disciplines.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Lamar County Fire Services in partnership with the Southeast MS Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Pre-registration is a must for the meal head count. To pre-register by phone,

or to receive more information you may contact George Stevens at 601-270-7525 or Lenora Haynes at 601-307-6728.

Please complete the pre-registration form and re-



Photo by MFC

turn by mail or fax to 601-268-2778 by May 4, 2015.









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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

  
**May 2015**  
**Newsletter**

## ***Our Mission***

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and its protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests. **Serving Mississippi Since 1926.**

**Our Mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.**

